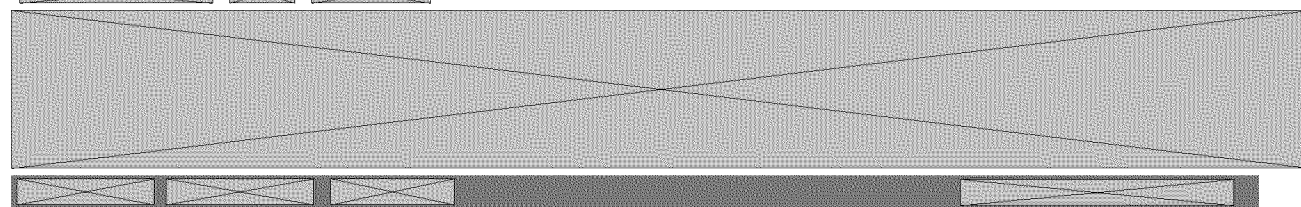


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Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

The following news provides a snapshot of what Bloomberg BNA is working on today. Read the full version of all the stories in the final issue, published each night.

No Health Effects Seen From Colorado Mining Waste Release

Posted August 11, 2015, 1:28 P.M. ET

By [Patrick Ambrosio](#)

There have been no reported cases of any adverse health effects related to the release of mining wastewater in southwest Colorado, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy said today.

McCarthy, speaking at an event in Washington, D.C., said the EPA has researchers and scientists “working around the clock” to address the effect of the mining waste released from the Gold King mine Aug. 5. McCarthy described the incident as a “tragic and very unfortunate incident” and said the EPA is taking responsibility to ensure the health and safety of residents in the area.

The mining waste was released after EPA contractors used heavy equipment to enter the abandoned mine, with the goal of pumping and treating the wastewater, McCarthy said. The agency yesterday estimated a release into the Animas River of 3 million gallons—three times as large as initially thought.

McCarthy Confident in Clean Power Plan Legality

Posted August 11, 2015, 3:14 P.M. ET

By [Patrick Ambrosio](#)

The head of the Environmental Protection Agency is confident that the agency's carbon dioxide standards will be upheld in the courts and would be difficult for future administrations to reverse.

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said today that the agency's Clean Power Plan is “quite legally solid,” though she acknowledged that the legality of the regulation will be debated “endlessly” over the next few years.

“It will stand the test of time in the courts,” McCarthy said during remarks at a Resources for the Future event in Washington, D.C.

McCarthy also said that any future administration would face “a significant hurdle” to reverse the Clean Power Plan,

given the extensive record that supported the rulemaking and the fact that every step of the process has already been litigated. "When you have a final Clean Air Act rule, it's a pretty solid obligation," she said.

EPA Sets Sulfur Dioxide Data Requirements

Posted August 11, 2015, 12:02 P.M. ET

By [Patrick Ambrosio](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency issued final requirements for state air agencies to gather data necessary to implement the 2010 1-hour national ambient air quality standard for sulfur dioxide.

The [final rule](#), signed by EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy yesterday, establishes three options to assess local sulfur dioxide levels in areas with large emissions sources. The agency said data collected under the final rule will be used to complete area designations for the standard of 75 parts per billion.

The three options set out in the data requirements rule are:

- conducting ambient air quality monitoring in areas around sources that emit 2,000 tons per year or more of sulfur dioxide;
- modeling actual source emissions in areas around sources that emit 2,000 tons per year; or
- setting an enforceable emissions limit for sources below the rule's 2,000 tons-per-year threshold.

Airline Groups to EPA: Defer to Global Carbon Limits

Posted August 11, 2015, 1:25 P.M. ET

By [Dean Scott](#)

U.S. air carriers, plane manufacturers and a pilots union today urged the Environmental Protection Agency not to regulate aircraft carbon pollution and to defer to a global body that is to issue its own rules in 2016.

"Climate change is a serious global environmental challenge requiring a credible global action," Leslie Riegle, the Aerospace Industries Association's environmental policy director told EPA officials at a hearing on whether the agency should move forward with U.S. aircraft carbon limits. Representatives from Airlines for America, a U.S. airline trade group and the Air Line Pilots union urged the EPA to defer to global aircraft carbon limits the International Civil Aviation Organization is to unveil in February 2016.

The EPA on July 1 published two related proposals: an initial finding that aircraft carbon emissions endanger public health under the Clean Air Act; and an advance notice of proposed rulemaking, the first step toward regulating those emissions. The EPA could opt to issue domestic rules to mirror the ICAO carbon limits, but environmental groups want it to go further if needed, noting that while aircraft emissions account for only 3 percent of U.S. total emissions, they could triple in the decades ahead.

Crude Oil Production on the Rise, EIA Report Finds

Posted August 11, 2015, 3:47 P.M. ET

By [Rebecca Kern](#)

U.S. crude oil production will reach the highest output in more than 40 years, the latest Energy Information Administration short-term energy outlook reported today.

The [outlook](#) found that while the U.S. crude oil production in 2015 is expected to be 100,00 barrels per day less than previously forecast, it is still on track to reach the highest production level since 1972.

Separately, U.S. natural gas inventories are expected to be at their second-highest level on record by the end of October, when the heating season starts in parts of the country, the EIA projected.

On the renewables front, the EIA noted that more than half of the electricity-generating units added in the U.S. this year came from renewable energy sources, including wind and solar. The EIA expects solar and wind power to continue to grow. It predicts there will be 18 gigawatts of wind added and 9 gigawatts of solar added between 2014 and 2016.

Potential for Delaware Basin Fracking Estimated in Report

Posted August 11, 2015, 1:35 P.M. ET

By [Leslie A. Pappas](#)

As many as 4,000 wells could be fracked in the Delaware River Basin to access Marcellus Shale if a moratorium on drilling in the area is lifted, according to an analysis released today from CNA, a nonprofit research and analysis organization located in Arlington, Va.

The report estimates future development of the interior Marcellus Shale region along the Delaware River Basin—which spans Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and New York—and attempts to quantify the potential impact to land cover, water and wastewater management, air quality, erosion and health of roughly 45,000 people who could live within one mile of a well pad if the area is developed.

The report is funded by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, an environmental group dedicated to the health of the Delaware River.

Australia Unveils 'Middle of the Pack' GHG Cutting Plan

Posted August 11, 2015, 3:53 P.M. ET

By Murray Griffin

Australia pledged to the global community today that it would cut its greenhouse gas emissions 26 percent to 28 percent by 2030 compared to emission levels from 2005.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott, in announcing his country's formal commitment to the United Nations ahead of the end-of-year international climate summit in Paris, said Australia's pledge puts it "fairly and squarely in the middle" of national plans in terms of its ambition to cut emissions in the post-2020 period.

[Australia's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution](#) falls short of a U.S. commitment to reach the same 26-to-28 percent target, but to do it by 2025. It also lags behind the Europe Union pledge to make emissions cuts of at least 40 percent by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

However, the Sydney-based head of Bloomberg New Energy Finance in Australia, Kobad Bhavnagri, called Australia's target "right in the middle of the pack with its trading partners."

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